

Southeast Parent News

November 2003



From the desk of the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Parent-teacher conferences will begin within the next few weeks. Your child's progress will be reviewed with you. Progress reports will be sent home on Friday, November 21. You will have an opportunity to discuss the contents of the report with your child's teacher. This is a time for you to also share how you feel your child is doing.

One of the biggest educational events of the year is fast approaching – American Education Week, November 17-21. This week is a time for saluting our public schools and the relationships between teachers, students and parents. The theme of this year's celebration, "Great Public Schools for Every Child-- America's Promise," reflects our nation's commitment to all students. The interaction between children, parents, and teachers cannot be underplayed. If partnerships between teachers and parents are strong, the children's chances of success skyrocket.

I am proud of the Southeast staff for their continuous dedication and support to the children of our school. I also am grateful to the many parents and community members who are involved in helping us educate Southeast students. Helping children achieve at school, as well as in life, is a goal we can all share with pride.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL PTO FUNDRAISERS

We are pleased to announce:

- © Our School Carnival held in September raised over \$6000
- © Gift Wrap raised over \$2000
- © KidsArt Card raised over \$780

This event is a wonderful example of our theme: **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore!

A BIG thanks to all of the parents who gave their time and energy to help make the fundraisers such a success..



Stories for Southeast The Gift That Keeps on Giving

The Southeast Elementary School PTO would like to thank the individuals below for their purchase of the following books for our school library:

- Butterflies in the Garden... in honor of Mickey Maheu, finalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year-2004... from the Southeast PTO;
- Chicken Cluck... for Andy Mikolinski on his 6th birthday... love, Mom and Dad;
- Home at Last... to Jingyi for enriching our lives... love, Dad and Mom;
 - My Momma Likes to Say... in memory of Joan Vezzani Tordenti Cortucci from her daughter and granddaughter... with love, Laura Tordenti and Eliza Patterson;
- Raptor: A Kid's Guide to Birds of Prey... in honor of Mickey Maheu, Mansfield's Teacher of the Year-2004... from the Southeast PTO.



If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Mickey Maheu for information.

**Celebrating American
Education Week
November 17-21**



This week's theme, "Great Public Schools for Every Child--America's Promise" is intended to remind people that teaching and learning is a home and classroom team effort.

Today's teachers do more than teach basic skills. They nurture and inspire children. They help students learn essential skills not always measured in testing, such as critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperation and problem solving, which help students throughout life.

Parents, please visit your child's classroom and learn for yourself how you and the teacher can work together.

The National Education Association web site: www.nea.org/aew/ offers many "how to" ideas and suggestions. You will find hands-on and how-to materials and links to other Web sites.

Helping students achieve at school, as well as in life, is a goal we can work toward with pride.



**Congratulations, Green
Thumbs Club!**

On October 27th the Green Thumbs Club received a proclamation from the Mansfield Town Council acknowledging their outstanding environmental work. Mayor Patterson congratulated the club for helping Southeast receive the Green Flag Award in September. In attendance were a number of current and former Green Thumbs Club members, along with Superintendent Dr. Schimmel, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Baruzzi, Principal Mrs. Fisher-Doiron, and Teacher, Mr. Maheu.

\$ SOUTHEAST SCHOOL BANK \$
The SAVE FOR AMERICA SCHOOL
SAVINGS PROGRAM

is returning and will open Monday, November 3rd in the computer lab. This program is offered through Liberty Bank. Students can open a savings account through the program at an interest rate above regular savings accounts. Students can pick up the information packet any Monday morning between 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. Please call Stacy Fulton at 456-2143 if you have questions.

Early Care and Education in Mansfield

The Town of Mansfield is hosting a "Community Conversation" on Early Care and Education in Mansfield on Thursday, November 20th. The event will be held at the Town Hall from 5:30 - 10:00 p.m. starting with a light meal. Childcare will be available. If you are interested, please contact Sandra Baxter 429-3338 or Kevin Grunwald at 429-3315. Hope to see you there!

**Keeping Kids Moving Improves
Health & Academic Performance**

It is very important that children understand the link between nutrition and physical activity. Teaching children that the Five Food Group foods give them energy to learn and play helps students understand the relationship between the two. When studying the Five Food Groups, emphasize that 3 or more servings of Milk Group foods, along with plenty of exercise and activity helps children and teens build the strongest bones possible. Remind students they need plenty of fluids when they are physically active, and beverages such as milk, water and 100 percent fruit juice are the best choices. And for a healthy weight, children need to balance energy they take in with energy they put out.

More information on the web -
www.kidnetic.com, www.bam.gov or
www.verbnow.com



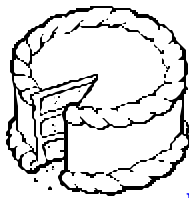
Dear Parents and Guardians,

If at any time your financial status changes, you may apply for free or reduced lunch.

An application is in your parent handbook, or you may call me at the Health Room, 423-2793.

Yours in Good Health,
Vicki Daniels, School Nurse

MORE RECIPES, PLEASE!



Thanks to your generosity, the PTO has over 200 recipes for our planned Southeast cookbook. We need another 100 recipes to meet our goal. So please send in your family's favorite recipe.

Take a look at what's happening in November and December

*All events at Southeast unless
stated otherwise.*

November

PAC Meeting	Monday, November 3 6:00 p.m.
PTO Meeting	Monday, November 3 7:00 p.m.
Election Day Voting at Southeast	Tuesday, November 4 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Enrichment Cluster Final Day	Friday, November 7 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Professional Day, No School	Monday, November 10
Veterans' Day, No School	Tuesday, November 11
Board of Education Meeting Teacher of the Year Celebration	Thursday, November 13 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Town Hall
America Recycles Day At Southeast	Friday, November 14

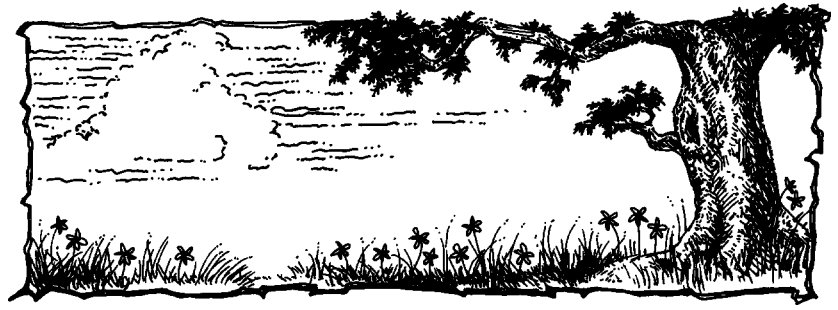
American Education Week Children's Book Week	Monday through Friday November 17 – 21
Progress Reports	Friday, November 21
Thanksgiving Lunch	Friday, November 21
Early Closing Day	Monday, November 24
Book Fair	Monday, November 24
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 24 Evening
Early Closing Day	Tuesday, November 25
Book Fair	Tuesday, November 25
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Tuesday, November 25 Afternoon
Early Closing Day Day before Thanksgiving	Wednesday, November 26
Thanksgiving, No School	Thursday, November 27
Thanksgiving Break No School	Friday, November 28



<u>December</u> PAC Meeting	Monday, December 1 6:00 p.m.
PTO Meeting	Monday, December 1 7:00 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting	Thursday, December 11 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Town Hall
Chanukah Begins	Saturday, December 20
Winter Vacation And Christmas Holiday	Wednesday through following Friday December 24 – January 2
First day of Kwanzaa	Friday, December 26
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
School Resumes	Monday, January 5
PAC Meeting	Monday, January 5 6:00 p.m.
PTO Meeting	Monday, January 5 7:00 p.m.



Native Plantings by Green Thumbs Club's



Did you notice the fence-line garden along the north side of the compost enclosure? On October 15th the Green Thumbs Club planted over twenty varieties of native plants in a newly formed border. The plants were selected for that particular habitat - a north-facing, partially to mostly shaded area with porous soil. They were also selected for producing either interesting blooms, berries, or foliage while school is in session. The new bed was prepared with "South-east Gold" (finished compost)...ofcourse. All the plants are native to northeastern United States.

The Club members were introduced to the idea of native plants during their visit to Goodwin Conservation Center in September. A plant that is considered native has grown naturally in North America, without the help of man. Native plants evolved with the wildlife of the continent - from black bears and brook trout to bumblebees and earthworms to microscopic soil bacteria and fungi. These species are dependent on one another in many ways. Sometimes this dependency is as noticable as a ruby-throated hummingbird visiting a beautiful cardinal flower to feed on the nectar. As she feeds, the flower's pollen is carried on the hummingbird to the next cardinal flower she visits. The cardinal flower provides nourishment to the bird while the hummingbird helps the cardinal flower reproduce. Other relationships are much more subtle. Obvious or subtle, these relationships create an interconnected, dynamic community.



When people from other continents began arriving in North America, they brought with them plants and seeds from their homelands, sometimes deliberately, sometimes by mistake or chance. Some of these "exotic" plants have adapted well to their new community. Others have caused havoc. Plants such as purple loosestrife, bittersweet and winged euonymus have spread so prolifically that native plants have been decimated. The result is diminishing diversity. Diversity is necessary for healthy plant and animal communities.

The Green Thumbs Club is doing its part to restore plant diversity with the planting of the fence-line garden; the remainder of the border will be planted in the spring. The garden design and plant purchases came from Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery in Ashford. The native plants include nodding onion, Arkansas bluestar, pussytoes, columbine, smooth aster, blue false indigo, green and gold, thread-leaved coreopsis, wild geranium, oxeye, heuchera americana, penstemon, phlox, wreath goldenrod, ironweed, St. Johnswort, american hazelnut and northern sea oats.